

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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NSC-10 SY-02 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 171023Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6060

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

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EO 11652: N/A DECON 1/15/75

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, UR

SUBJECT: LEFTIST PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
GODLEY

REFS: BEIRUT 077 AND 343 (NOT SENT MOSCOW OR JIDDA)

SUMMARY:LOCAL MOSCOW-CONTROLLED OR ORIENTED PAPERS IN PAST
WEEK HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY IDENTIFIABLE AS CHIEF INSTIGATORS
AND ABETTORS OF LEFTIST PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE GODLEY. WHILE FREQUENCY OF ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS
COMPLAINING ABOUT GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT HAS DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT
IN OTHER LEFTIST PAPERS INPAST FEW DAYS, COMMUNIST PRESS--JOINED
BY LOCAL FEDAYEEN ORGANS--CONTINUES DO ITS UTMOST TO KEEP ISSUE
ALIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH ANTI-GODLEY OUTPOURINGS IN BEIRUT LEFTIST PRESS
(REFTELS) HAVE GENERALLY DIMISHED SOMEWHAT IN PAST FOUR DAYS,
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LOCAL MOSCOW-CONTROLLED COMMUNIST PAPERS AND VARIOUS FEDAYEEN

ORGANS ARE STILL TRYING HARD KEEP ISSUE ALIVE IN ORDER EMBARRASS GOL AND DISCREDIT NEW AMBASSADOR. ON JAN 14, LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAYEEN AL YOM AND PLO(WAFA) DAILY BULLETIN, AFTER REHASHING NOW SHOPWORN TALES OF GODLEY'S ALLEGED INVIDIOUS PAST CITED "AUTHORIZED SOURCES" AS STATING GOL WOULD KEEP HIS ACTIVITIES UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE AND WOULD DEMAND HIS SWIFT RECALL IF THEY SHOULD GO BEYOND LIMITS OF HIS DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

2. IN ADDITION, COMMUNIST WEEKLY AL AKHBAR IN LEAD ARTICLE JAN 12 DWELT AT LENGTH ON "PROVOCATION" WHICH GODLEY APPOINTMENT OFFERS TO "LEBANESE AND ARAB PEOPLES". FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AKHBAR ARTICLE,WHOSE TONE AND CONTENT IS BEING ECHOED REPEATEDLY IN CPL DAILY, AN NIDA:

BEGIN SUMMARY: HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF LEBANESE OFFICIALS WOULD RESPOND AS RAPIDLY TO DEMANDS OF LEBANESE PEOPLE AS THEY RESPONDED TO AMERICA'S DEMAND FOR GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT, DESPITE FURY AND IDIGNATION HIS APPOINTMENT HAS AROUSED HERE. TIME HAS COME FOR US TO GIVE FIRM AND FINAL "NO" TO AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANESE AND ARAB AFFAIRS. GOL CANNOT CONVINCE ANYONE THAT GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT WAS MERELY DIPLOMATIC COINCIDENCE AT THIS CRITICAL AND DANGEROUS STAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB WORLD, WHEN LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST HAS ALREADY BEGUN, LOCAL RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS ARE ARMING THEMSELVES TO STRIKE AT PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND STRUGGLING PALESTINIAN FREEDOM-FIGHTERS, AND PLOTS ARE AFOOT TO STIFLE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD.

THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT IS ENTRUSTED WITH TASK OF EXPLOITING EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO SET STAGE FOR FURTHER AMERICAN INTERVENTION. ITS ROLE AT TIME OF ASSASSINATION OF PALESTINIAN LEADERS LAST APRIL, AS WELL AS ITS SOBOTAGE TACTICS DURING MAY CLASHES, ARE STILL FRESH IN MINDS OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. US OFFICIALS APPARENTLY VIEW AREA CONDITIONS AS UNUSUALLY GRAVE, SINCE WHY ELSE WOULD THEY REQUIRE EMISSARIES SO EXPERIENCED IN CONSPIRING AGAINST POPULAR FREEDOM MOVEMENTS? IN IRAN WE ALREADY HAVE MR. HELMS, CIA'S EX-DIRECTOR, ACTIVE IN PROMOTING IRANIAN INVASION OF DHOFAR AND DIRECTING IRANIAN-ISRAELI-ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO CONTROL STRATEGIC WATERWAYS FOR OIL SHIPMENTS. IN SAUDI ARABIA, WE HAVE MR. AKINS, SO-CALLED EXPERT IN OIL AFFAIRS.

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WOULD IT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR US TO ESCALATE ITS OPEN PLOTTING AGAINST ARAB PEOPLES IF CERTAIN ARAB OFFICIALS HAD NOT YET YEARNED FOR RETURN OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE, BOWED TO US "THREATS" AGREED TO RESTORE US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, AND ACCEPTED APPOINTMENT OF US AMBASSADOR INCAIRO WHO IS NO LESS "EXPERIENCED" THAN GODLEY, HELMS AND AKINS? HOW LONG WILL THIS ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN PLOTTING CONTINUE? WHEN WILL

LEBANESE OFFICIALS CEASE TRYING TO PLEASE WASHINGTON?
GOL'S ACCEPTANCE OF GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT IS
SCANDAL IN FULLEST SENSE OF WORD, SINCE IT DISREGARDS
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ARAB INTERSTS. MAIN JOB OF
NEW AMERICAN EAMBASSADOR WILL BE PLOTTING AGAINST
PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN (WHOM WASHINGTON CALLS "TERRORISTS"),
AGAINST LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE FORCES, AND AGAINST ALL
ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. GOL'S SUBMISSION TO US PRO-
VOCATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT LESSEN DETERMINATION OF
OUR PEOPLE TO RESIST THIS AND OTHER STEPS HOSTILE TO
LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

3. COMMENT: (A) AS BEST WE CAN JUDGE IN TALKS WITH
GOL OFFICIALS, ANTI-GODLEY PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN HAVING NO
EFFECT ON ATTITUDE OF GOL. NOR DO WE BELIEVE IT HAV-
ING MUCH NEGATIVE EFFECT ON INFORMED POLITICAL CIRCLES
WHO UNDERSTAND VERY WELL INSPIRED NATURE OF PROPAGANDA.
IT IS WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE THAT SOV EMBASSY HAS BEEN
PASSING MATERIAL ON AMBASSADOR GODLEY TO VARIOUS PAPERS,
INCLUDING SEVERAL WHO HAVE REFUSED USE IT. ON OTHER
HAND, GIVEN RATHER CREDULOUS NATURE MANY LEBANESE, THERE
IS LIKELY BE SOME NEGATIVE FALL-OUT FROM CONSTANT
REPETITION OF ALLEGATIONS, FOLLOWING OLD ADAGE OF
"WHERE THERE IS SMOKE, THERE IS FIRE."

(B) OF MORE SERIOUS CONCERN IS POSSIBLE EFFECT
OF THIS PROPAGANDA ON FUTURE SECURITY OF AMBASSADOR
GODLEY. FACT THAT FEDAYEEN INFO ORGANS HAVE BEGUN
REPLAY SOV ALLEGATIONS UNFORTUNATELY FOLLOWS LONG
HISTORY OF FEDAYEEN CHARGES (AND BELIEF) THAT THIS
EMBASSY AND USG INVOLVED IN CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE
PALESTINIAN "RESISTANCE". EVEN THOUGH THOSE RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICATION ARE AWARE OF SOURCE OF
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PROPAGANDA, AND BETTER ABLE DISCOUNT IT, THIS NOT
LIKELY BE TRUE OF AVERAGE FEDAYEEN WHO COULD BE MORE
STRONGLY MOVED THAN IN PAST TO ENTERTAIN VIOLENT
ACTION AGAINST AMBASSADOR AND/OR EMBASSY.

(C) PRIMARILY IN LIGHT OF COMMENT (B) ABOVE,
WE BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD CONSIDER RAISING QUESTION OF
SOV-INSPIRED ATTACKS ON GODLEY AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL
WITH SOV EMBASSY WASHINGTON. EVEN IF SUCH APPROACH
WERE TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON SITUATION HERE, OUR KNOWLEDGE
OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUED AGITATION WILL BE
ON RECORD WITH USSR.
HOUGHTON

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